Given

by Kizu Natsuki

Chapter 08

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Joint project between BangAQUA & Dangerous Pleasure.
» A manga from Dear Plus Comics.
» JAN/ISBN: 9784403665035

www.bangaqua.com // www.dpscanlations.deathsvertigo.com

given

Natsuki Kizu
presents

GIVEN

OKAY, ATTENTION.

I HAVE A PROPOSAL.

?

?

YOU SEE,

THERE'S ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT UNTIL THE LIVE, RIGHT?

SHOCKED

LET'S STOP PRACTICING.

COUGH

COUGH

IT WAS ALL RIGHT.

WHEN I HEARD IT EARLIER, I THOUGHT, "WELL, THE SOUND ISN'T THAT BAD."

Great!

Passing mark.

DOESN'T THAT LINE MEAN BARELY MAKING IT, OR ALMOST OUT?!

ONE OF TWO THINGS I WAS WORRIED ABOUT BEFORE WAS MAFUYU'S GUITAR PLAYING, BUT IT'S REACHED A PASSING MARK NOW.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU SAYING?!

...THE LYRICS NOT BEING DONE YET IS THE MORE DANGEROUS PROBLEM HERE.

IMAGE

THAT'S WHY I SAID IF WE SCREWED UP A BIT, IT'D BE COMPLETELY OUT, RIGHT?

IT FEELS LIKE A POORLY HIT, FLYING SLOWLY, AND ALMOST OUT OF THIRD-BASE LINE.

I'm gonna catch it.

roll

roll

roll

HM... BUT...

...I THINK...

MAFUYU.

...YES?

I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WRITE THE LYRICS IF WE KEEP PRACTICING ENDLESSLY IN THE STUDIO.

MAFUYU,

WHAT'RE YOU DOING CORNERING HIM LIKE THAT? HEY...

SHOVED

grin

ARE YOU FINE WITH RIDING A MOTOR-BIKE?

HARUKI,

I'LL TAKE MAFUYU HOME, SO I'M COUNTING ON YOU AND UENOYAMA.

HMM, OKAY.

...

HERE,

WEAR THIS.

SAY,

clack

!

AND THIS, TOO.

IT'LL BE PRETTY COLD, SO PUT THIS ON JUST IN CASE.

...THANK YOU.

I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WRITE THE LYRICS UNLESS YOU'VE MADE PEACE WITH YOUR PAST.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO CONVEY IT? OR DO YOU JUST WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM PUTTING IT INTO WORDS?

GOOD GRIEF. SERIOUSLY.

ARGH... ENOUGH...

TAP

"I'm counting on you to support Uenoyama!"

!

TUG

"Haru."

WHAT'S WITH...

OH.

HARUKI-SAN, THE LIGHT TURNED GREEN ALREADY.

...THAT?!

MY LEFT EAR FEELS ITCHY!

4km
2km
BOTH HIS INTENTION AND OUR BAND'S CURRENT SITUATION!
I'M AWARE OF IT!
I GUESS IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
GOAL!
GAMEOVER
Go back 2 steps
Go back 1 step
Lose a turn
FUNNY SUGOROKU
*Sugoroku is children's dice game.
Haa...
AND YET, THAT GUY...
GOAL!
GAMEOVER
Go back 2 steps
...SIT SIDE BY SIDE.
MASSIVE FAILURE AND HUGE SUCCESS...
GOAL!
GAMEOVER
SLIDE
GO
SLIDE
AND NOW, THE CURRENT SITUATION IS LIKE...
...GOING BACK AND FORTH IN FRONT OF THE GOAL.

MY EAR IS ITTCCHHY YYYYY.

HARUKI-SAN, IT'S GREEN.

HE EVEN CALLED ME "HARU" OUT OF NOWHERE!

GOAL!

GAMEOVER

Go back

Go back

HE'S SERIOUSLY A MING TO ROLL THE DICE ALL OUT TO GET THE GOAL.

"Light a fire in him."

I THINK THE REASON THAT AKIHIKO SAID TO STOP PRACTICING...

...MIGHT BE YOUR FAULT.

VROOM

...UECCH.

YES?

AT THIS RATE, I'LL HAVE AN ACCIDENT SOMEDAY...

And I'll die...

sigh

IT'S GREEN.

AH-AH.

PLUS, YOU DON'T REALLY THINK THAT YOU'RE "FINE WITH MY USUAL PERFORMANCE", DO YOU?

I GUESS A PART OF IT IS ABOUT YOU FEELING OVER-CONSCIOUS OF MAFUYU.

TO BEGIN WITH, YOU CAN PLAY WELL SO IT DOESN'T STAND OUT MUCH, BUT YOUR CURRENT FORM IS OBVIOUSLY GETTING WORSE

HUH?

..THINKING

"NOT GOOD",

'S WHAT AKIHIKO'S. .

I'M ALSO GETTING MANIPULATED HERE. . .

UGH...

I... DO. I'M TRYING TO KEEP MY PLAYING JUST LIKE USUAL.

ISN'T THAT GOOD ENOUGH?

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU EVEN REALIZE THAT YOU'RE PAYING TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO MAFUYU'S SOUNDS.

BUT THE WAY YOU ARE NOW,

YOU'LL BE EATEN BY HIS SOUNDS.

AH-AH WITH THIS,

FUNKY SUGOROKU

GOAL!

GAMEOVER

Go Back 2 Steps

Go Back 1 Step

Lose one turn

Lose one turn

Add

IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE GOTTEN EVEN FURTHER FROM THE GOAL.

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW, AKIH KO?

I ALSO ENDED UP TAKING PART IN YOUR GAMBLE.

7 DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE LIVE.
...
blink
yawn

LET ME HAVE A BITE, TOO.

thud

...

Ah.

IT'S OUR FATED BASEMENT.

HOW ANNOYING

AGH~ HOW I WISH FOR THIS HUMIDITY TO DISAPPEAR.

CHOMP

YOU HAVE A LIVE?

YOU SUDDENLY HAVE THE MOTIVATION TO DO IT?

AH...

BUT WHY?

YEAH.

CAN I PRACTICE THE DRUMS THIS MORNING?

IS IT AT A LEVEL THAT YOU CAN *SHOW ME*?

Stare

...

WHAT?

AH... IT'S NOT AT A LEVEL WHERE YOU CAN REPLY TO ME RIGHT AWAY... THEN, I WON'T COME.

...

WILL YOU COME?

UGETSU.

Though we did declare proudly,

BUT STILL...

I still can't deny the chance of us having a massive failure...

THERE'S NO POINT WATCHING A PERFORMANCE IF THE PERFORMER DOESN'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO DO IT WELL.

JUST COME.

WELL, THANK YOU.

OH? YOU FINALLY SHOW YOUR MOTIVATION.

MORE LIKE, I'M FILLED WITH CONFIDENCE HERE.

I DO HAVE IT.

GO DO IT WITH YOUR NEW VIOLA BOYFRIEND.

HAHA. THEN KEEP ME COMPANY WITH MY DUO VIOLIN PRACTICE THIS AFTERNOON.

I WON'T. I ONLY LIKE HIS FACE.

IS THAT SO?

YEAH.

"DO YOU REALLY WANT TO CONVEY IT? OR DO YOU JUST WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM PUTTING IT INTO WORDS?"

bzz

zoo

light

9:20

June 28th Sunday

Hiiragi Now
Look outside your window

slide to reply

SLIDE TO

sluggish

...

conk

Zaaaaa

creak

bzz
bzz
bzz
...HELLO.
SAY, MAFUYU,
WON'T YOU COME OUT AND PLAY WITH ME?

Murata Ugetsu

MURATA UGETSU (21) (Akihiko's classmate)

175cm

Birth 6/6 Gemini Blood Type: O

Violinist

Though he's Akihiko's roommate, sometimes he goes abroad, and sometimes he stays in Japan.

6:45
brush
brush
brush
brush
...
AHAHAHA!

8:00
slurp
slurp
slurp
ROLL
ROLL
AHAHAH.
The lecture is cancelled.
Because of the typhoon, all trains on the JR line...
YAAAY!

13:00
AHAHAH.
THWACK
Yeah. Barrier.
No effect.
No effect. Barrier.

15:00